

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DODE-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION NATO

ALL NATO CAPITALS

INFO USDELMC

USNMR SHAPE

USLO SACLANT

USCINCEUR

CINCLANT

CINCUSAFE

USDOCOSOUTH

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCON, MILI, NATO

SUBJECT: NATO AIRBORNE EARLY WARNING (AEW)

1. FOR BACKGROUND INFORMATION OF ADDRESSEES, RECENT
EXCHANGE OF LETTERS BETWEEN FRG MINISTER OF DEFENSE LEBER
AND SECDEF RUMSFELD IS QUOTED BELOW.

2. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF LEBER LETTER TO SECDEF, DATED
DECEMBER 16:
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BEGIN QUOTE:

DEAR COLLEAGUE:

THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS IN REFERENCE TO OUR BRUSSELS TALKS AND TO YOUR WRITTEN COMMENTS FORWARDED BY AMBASSADOR HILLENBRAND ON NOVEMBER 28, 1975, PERTAINING TO AWACS. DURING OUR BRUSSELS TALKS I HAD STATED MY CONSENT TO ACCEPT A 4 MILLION DOLLAR SHARE FOR THE PURPOSE OF ORDERING AWACS PROGRAM LONG-LEAD ITEMS BY THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY. I HAVE INDICATED THAT THIS CONSENT GIVEN WAS SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE GERMAN PARLIAMENT AND THAT THIS APPROVAL WAS STILL PENDING.

MY CONSENT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE FINANCING OF THE LONG-LEAD ITEMS DOES NOT CONSTITUTE ASSENT TO THE ENTIRE PROJECT. OUR BRUSSELS TALKS HAVE INDICATED THAT AT PRESENT SOME FOUNDATION FOR DECISION-MAKING STILL NEED TO BE STUDIED IN ORDER TO PROVIDE FOR THE BASIS FOR FINAL JUDGEMENT.

I HOPE THAT ANSWERS WILL BE FOUND TO THOSE PROBLEMS NOT YET SOLVED, I.E. NUMBER OF ITEMS REQUIRED, DEFINITION OF CONFIGURATION, CONNECTION TO GROUND CONTROL SYSTEM, SELECTION OF THE DATA PROCESSING SYSTEM, DEPLOYMENT, ORGANIZATION OF EMPLOYMENT, SCOPE OF COOPERATION WITH INDUSTRY, OVERALL COSTS AND OTHERS.

WITHIN THE SCOPE OF MY POSSIBILITIES I SHALL GLADLY CONTRIBUTE TO THE CLARIFICATION.

ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT FACTORS IN THIS CONTEXT WILL BE THE QUESTION AS TO WHAT NATIONS WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE AWACS PROGRAM, THE SCOPE OF SUCH PARTICIPATION, AND WHAT SHARE WILL FALL TO THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY AT WHAT TIME. IN THIS CONTEXT, THE VITAL IMPORTANCE OF A BROAD MULTINATIONAL BASIS DOES NOT REQUIRE FURTHER MENTIONING.

SINCERELY, LEBER. END QUOTE.

3. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF SECDEF RESPONSE, DATED FEBRUARY UNCLASSIFIED

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BEGIN QUOTE:

DEAR MINISTER LEBER:

YOU WILL RECALL THAT WE DISCUSSED THE NATO AIRBORNE EARLY WARNING (AEW) PROGRAM DURING OUR MEETING IN HAMBURG ON

JANUARY 21. YOU REFERRED TO YOUR EARLIER LETTER OF DECEMBER 16, IN WHICH YOU AGREED TO CONTRIBUTE \$4 MILLION TO A LONG LEAD FUND SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE BUNDESTAG. WE HAVE CAREFULLY CONSIDERED THE POINTS IN YOUR HELPFUL LETTER, AND I WOULD LIKE TO SUGGEST TO YOU A PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE FORTHCOMING MONTHS.

FAVORABLE ACTIONS BY THE NATO ALLIES, AND PARTICULARLY THE INTEREST AND COMMITMENT SHOWN BY THE FRG AND UK, HAVE BEEN IMPORTANT TO MAINTAINING CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT TO DATE FOR THE US AND THE NATO AWACS PROGRAMS. RECENT CONGRESSIONAL APPROPRIATION OF LONG LEAD FUNDING HAS EXTENDED THE US PROGRAM BEYOND JUNE 1976. HOWEVER, KWE STILL NEED JOINT ADVANCE FUNDING FOR PACING ITEMS FOR NATO AWACS IN ORDER TO SUSTAIN THE COST INTEGRITY OF THE NATO PROGRAM AND TO PROVIDE CONGRESS WITH CONTINUING EVIDENCE OF TANGIBLE ALLIED SUPPORT. THEREFORE, WE MUST GO AHEAD AS WE PLANNED IN DECEMBER TO ESTABLISH A JOINT FUND.

WE WOULD PROPOSE TO DEVELOP A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE NATO AEW PROGRAM OFFICE (NAPO), WHICH WOULD SPECIFY THE FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS UNDERTAKEN BY THE FRG, UK, US AND OTHERS IN ORDER TO REACH THE \$12-15 MILLION PROJECTED FOR THE FUND. IF THIS MOU IS SATISFACTORY TO YOU AND THE OTHER ALLIES WHO HAVE TENTATIVELY AGREED TO INTERIM FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS, I WOULD SUGGEST A TARGET DATE OF EARLY APRIL FOR SIGNATURE OF THE MEMORANDUM BY NATIONAL ARMAMENTS DIRECTORS.

WE WILL NEED TO REACH A BETTER UNDERSTANDING ABOUT FOLLOW-ON FINANCING OF A NATO AWACS PROGRAM DURING OUR JUNE MEETING. I FULLY UNDERSTAND THAT ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL UNDERTAKINGS BY THE FRG WILL DEPEND ON ANSWERS TO THE UNCLASSIFIED

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UNRESOLVED PROBLEMS YOU MENTIONED IN YOUR LETTER--NUMBERS OF AIRCRAFT, CONFIGURATION, OVERALL COSTS, INDUSTRIAL COLLABORATION, ETC. ALL OF THESE MATTERS ARE UNDER EXAMINATION IN THE NAPO AND HIGH LEVEL GROUP. MY EARNEST HOPE IS THAT ANSWERS TO THESE INTERRELATED PROBLEMS CAN BE WORKED OUT, IN COOPERATION WITH THE NATO MILITARY AUTHORITIES, IN TIME FOR OUR REVIEW BEFORE THE SPRING MINISTERIAL MEETINGS.

AS AN INDICATION OF HOW WE ARE CURRENTLY PRESENTING BOTH THE US AWACS AND NATO AEW PROGRAMS TO THE US CONGRESS, I HAVE ENCLOSED A STATEMENT PROVIDED TO CONGRESS ON FEBRUARY 3. I HOPE THIS INFORMATION WILL BE USEFUL IN OUR COMMON EFFORT TO DEVELOP PUBLIC AND LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT FOR THE NATO AEW PROGRAM.

AGAIN, PLEASE LET ME EXPRESS MY PERSONAL APPRECIATION FOR YOUR HELP ON BEHALF OF THIS IMPORTANT ALLIED PROGRAM.

SINCERELY, DONALD RUMSFELD. END QUOTE.

4. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF ENCLOSURE TO SECDEF LETTER:

BEGIN QUOTE:

EXTRACT FROM PROGRAM OF RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST AND EVALUATION, FY 1977

AWACS (E-3A)

IN LAST YEAR'S STATEMENT WE ADDRESSED TWO AWACS ISSUES OF CONCERN TO THE CONGRESS: ELECTRONIC COUNTERMEASURES (ECM)

AND COST EFFECTIVENESS.

WITH RESPECT TO ECM, ADDITIONAL ECM TESTING HAS VERIFIED THE RELATIVE HARDNESS OF THE AWACS. THESE TESTS ALSO VERIFIED THE CONCLUSIONS OF THE EXPERTS APPOINTED TO INVESTIGATE THIS SAME ISSUE. A STUDY HAS BEEN COMPLETED AND DELIVERED TO THE CONGRESS SHOWING THE COST EFFECTIVENESS OF PROVIDING A CAPABILITY TO EXTEND OUR VISION BEYOND THE LIMITS OF GROUND BASED SYSTEMS AND TO PROVIDE AN

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AGGREGATED AND ORGANIZED VIEW OF AIR, LAND AND SEA OPERATIONS ON A MINUTE-TO-MINUTE BASIS TO DECISION AUTHORITIES. THE MAJOR ISSUES TO BE RESOLVED AT THIS TIME ARE THE ULTIMATE SIZE OF OUR OWN AWACS FORCE AND THE ACQUISITION OF AN AWACS FORCE BY NATO. THIS YEAR'S STATEMENT WILL ADDRESS THESE TWO ISSUES.

FORCE SIZE AND FY 1977 REQUEST

THUS FAR THE CONGRESS HAS AUTHORIZED AND APPROPRIATED FUNDS FOR 13 AWACS AIRCRAFT (I.E., 3 DT&E AIRCRAFT, SIX PRODUCTION AIRCRAFT IN FY 1975 AND FOUR PRODUCTION AIRCRAFT IN FY 1976).

SINCE OCTOBER 1973, WE HAVE ENCOURAGED NATO TO PROCURE AN AWACS FORCE TO SATISFY THEIR REQUIREMENTS. WE HAVE MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE UNITED STATES ALONE WILL NOT BUY SUFFICIENT AWACS TO MEET NATO'S NEEDS. THEREFORE, OUR PLAN CONTINUES TO BE: (1) DEFER FINAL APPROVAL OF THE ULTIMATE U.S. AWACS FORCE SIZE UNTIL NATO MAKES A DECISION; (2) REVIEW AND VALIDATE PROCUREMENTS ON AN ANNUAL BASIS (CURRENTLY PLANNED AT SIX AIRCRAFT PER YEAR);

AND (3) TO APPROVE PLANNING, PROGRAMMING AND BUDGETING ACTIVITIES RELATIVE TO 34 AIRCRAFT--THE STATED USAF OBJECTIVE--BUT WITH NO COMMITMENT AT THIS TIME TO PROCURE THE 34 AIRCRAFT FORCE.

FOR THE REASONS STATED ABOVE, WE ARE NOW ENDORSING A MINIMUM FORCE OF 19 U.S. AWACS (I.E., THREE DT&E AIRCRAFT, SIX PROCURED WITH FY 1975 FUNDS, FOUR WITH FY 1976 FUNDS AND SIX MORE IN OUR FY 1977 BUDGET REQUEST). NINETEEN U.S. AWACS ENABLE US TO BUILD TOWARDS A FORCE WHICH WILL SATISFY BOTH NON-NATO CONTINGENCY REQUIREMENTS AND U.S. MISSION REQUIREMENTS IN CENTRAL EUROPE. APPROVAL OF THE FY 1977 AIRCRAFT ALSO WOULD SUSTAIN THE AWACS PRODUCTION LINE AT A RELATIVELY LOW RATE, GIVING NATO THE ADDITIONAL TIME NEEDED TO MAKE A PROCUREMENT DECISION.

PROGRESS IN THE NATO AWACS INITIATIVE

I AM GRATIFIED BY THE IROGRESS WE HAVE MADE THIS YEAR WITH UNCLASSIFIED

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OUR NATO AWACS INITIATIVE. THE MAJOR NATO COMMANDERS COMPLETED THE REUUIREMENTS STATEMENT FOR A LAND BASED AIRBORNE EARLY WARNING (AEW) FORCE AND A CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS. THE NATO MILITARY COMMITTEE ISSUED A STRONG STATEMENT OF SUPPORT FOR THE ACQUISITION OF NATO AEW FORCE. NATO IS CURRENTLY CONSIDERING A FORCE OF 20 TO 32 AWACS AS WELL AS MODIFICATIONS OF THE GROUND ENVIRONMENT FOR INTEROPERABILITY.

I STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT CONGRESS AUTHORIZE AND APPROPRIATE THE FY 1977 FUNDS THAT WE HAVE PROPOSED FOR THE AWACS PROGRAM. AWACS REPRESENTS A VERY SIGNIFICANT ENHANCEMENT TO OUR EXISTING COMMAND AND CONTROL CAPABILITY AND WE BELIEVE THAT THERE IS A CRITICAL NEED FOR THIS SYSTEM.

END QUOTE.

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